GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:238
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2001
FUNDS FOR WATER HARVESTING
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Use funds for water harvesting` appearing in the `Hindu` dated July 10, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the guidelines issued by the Union Government to the State Governments regarding utilization of funds for water harvesting; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide safe drinking water to the rural people?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 238 FOR REPLY ON 7.8.2001.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the news item `Use funds for water harvesting` apart from other issues, status of not covered (NC) and partially covered (PC) habitations with provision of potable water facilities has been reported. The news item also mentions about various steps taken by the Ministry of Rural Development to provide safe drinking water, need for rainwater harvesting, role of panchayats and sector reforms in 63 pilot districts. So far as status of coverage is concerned, as reported by State Governments, the latest position is at Annexure-I. Further, in the news item, it is stated that an investment of Rs.32,000 crore has been made in the 9th Plan on rural drinking water supply, which is factually incorrect. The investment on rural water supply since the First Plan for both Central and State sectors is over Rs.32,000 crore.

(c)&(d) Rural Water Supply is a State subject. State Governments implement schemes / projects on rural drinking water supply from their own resources. The Government of India supplements their efforts by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and the Rural Drinking Water component of Prime Minister`s Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). As per the existing guidelines, schemes or projects can be taken up under Sub-Mission on sustainability under ARWSP, which inter-alia also includes rainwater harvesting. State Governments have been delegated powers to utilize upto 20% of ARWSP fund for Sub-Mission projects. Last year (2000-2001), State Governments were requested to earmark 25% of the 20% funds earmarked for Sub-Mission under ARWSP for schemes / projects relating to sustainability of source. Under PMGY-Rural Drinking Water component, provisions have been made to utilize minimum 25% of the funds on schemes or projects on water conservation, water harvesting, water recharge and sustainability of drinking water sources in respect of DDP / DPAP areas, over-exploited, dark / grey blocks and other water stressed / drought affected areas. The Go vernment of India has issued detailed Guidelines for implementation of Schemes and Projects on Sustainability under ARWSP and Rural Drinking Water component of PMGYAppeals have also been made to Hon`ble Members of Parliament to take up projects to augment the drinking water supply/ groundwater recharge like rainwater harvesting, etc., out of MPs Local Area Development fund.
The Government of India, in consonance with commitment made in the National Agenda of Governance, to provide potable drinking water in all habitations within 5 years, has created a separate Department of Drinking Water Supply. Further, budgetary allocation for ARWSP has been increased from Rs. 1800.00 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs.1960.00 crore in 2000-2001 and further to Rs. 2010.00 crore in 2001-2002. In 2000-2001, a new initiative in the form of Prime Minister`s Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) has been launched and continued in the current year under which rural drinking water is one of the components. Powers to plan, sanction and implement schemes and projects under ARWSP and PMGY (Rural Drinking Water) have been delegated to States.